

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1934

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/08/2015

6. Expected Renewal Date

06/08/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Section 135(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

13. Effective Date

03/27/1975

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 6 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 6 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
NAFTA Renegotiation Overview: The Administration seeks to do better in the process of negotiating trade agreements. To that end, the Administration has prioritized renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Negotiating priorities have been requested from trade advisory committees by June 30, 2017. The primary focus of this meeting will be drafting, deliberating and voting on the requested committee input.	01/10/2018	01/10/2018
NAFTA Renegotiation Overview: The Administration seeks to negotiate improved market access around the world via the negotiation of improved free trade agreements. To that end, the Administration has prioritized renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The primary focus of this meeting will be updating Advisor's on the current status of the NAFTA negotiations.	03/07/2018	03/07/2018
China: USDA and USTR seek to debrief agricultural advisors on the current status of the negotiations with China. Priority issues including trade in biotech products and beef will be among the topics of conversation.	06/05/2018	06/05/2018

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss policy developments, seek committee advice on, and formulate strategies relating to the U.S. trade agenda. The specific topic to be discussed at this meeting is the Negotiations with Canada and agreement with Mexico relative to NAFTA. 08/24/2018 - 08/24/2018

The specific topic to be discussed at this meeting is the FY 2019 Refined Sugar and Sugar Containing Products TRQ allocations: Specifically, the Administration seeks committee advice on allocation options for the Sugar and Sugar Containing Products TRQ allocation for FY2019. 08/24/2018 - 08/24/2018

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss policy developments, seek committee advice on, and formulate strategies relating to the U.S. trade agenda. 08/27/2018 - 08/27/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 6

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$14,750.00	\$20,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$600.00	\$2,000.00
18d. Total	\$15,350.00	\$22,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.35	0.40

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade and other economic issues that affect U.S. agriculture. In recent years, the Administration has consulted the Committee frequently on trade issues such as WTO negotiations, as well as the evaluation of benefits from existing FTAs with Canada, Mexico and Korea. The Administration relied heavily on the Committee's guidance on many aspects of the formulation of trade strategies, proposals, and agreements. The Committee accomplishes its purpose by reviewing sensitive materials provided by USTR/USDA and providing feedback to the principal parties either through written or electronic communications. Members also attend face-to face meetings with the Secretary of Agriculture and USTR in attendance. Advisors are required to hold a Secret Clearance. The minutes from the meetings are not available due to an exemption granted within the Trade Act of 1974.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members are selected from producers, processors, traders, manufacturers, and consumer representatives that are self-nominated or recommended by an organization for membership. Also, special emphasis has been placed on soliciting nominations from traditionally underrepresented groups.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets as needed to provide advice and counsel to the Administration on significant and timely agricultural trade matters. This Committee meets approximately twice a year. Conference calls are also a method used to hold ad hoc meetings.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Meetings are conducted so that U.S. trade negotiators can use the meetings to discuss and seek private sector advice regarding sensitive trade policy matters, the disclosure of which could seriously compromise the U.S. Government's development of policy priorities, negotiating objectives, and bargaining positions. Members must obtain a confidential security clearance so that government-classified documents can be discussed. Thus, meetings are closed to the public. Given the nature of these discussions, no other setting can be used to seek such advice without compromising U.S. trade policy.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Section 135(g) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)) protects certain communications between and among committee members and appropriate Federal government officials in connection with trade matters, more specifically, trade negotiations, the operation of an existing trade agreement, and other matters arising in connection with the administration of U.S. trade policy.

21. Remarks

The meetings for this committee are typically closed to the public.

Designated Federal Officer

Aileen Mannix DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Archer, Thomas	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	American Peanut Council	Representative Member
George, Clayton	10/16/2017	10/16/2021	Standard Cotton, LLC.	Representative Member
Huffman, Michelle	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	(non-profit) National Cotton Council of America	Representative Member
Koehler, Donald	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	(non-profit) Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peanuts	Representative Member
Muggli, Monique	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids	Representative Member
Pasco, Richard	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	American Peanut Product Manufacturers Inc.	Representative Member
Plowden, Evans	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	American Peanut Shellers Association	Representative Member
Quarles, Roger	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Burley Tobacco Growers Co-op Association	Representative Member

Quinn, J. Micheal	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc.
Schroeder, Harvey	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	(non-profit SRTG) Oklahoma Cotton Council
Taylor, Sledge	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Buckeye Farms
Veach, Randy	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Randy Veach Farms

Representative
Member
Representative
Member
Representative
Member
Representative
Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

Narrative Description

The Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton and Peanuts (TCP ATAC) supports USDA's international trade functions by providing technical advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade issues that affect U.S. agriculture.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

N/A

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

16

Number of Recommendations Comments

The number of recommendations varies from year-to-year. Historically, the Agency has misunderstood the use of this field and therefore, the total number of recommendations noted above for the life of this Committee is underreported. Efforts are underway to search historical records to be able to amend this section in the future to include the total number of recommendations produced since inception. For FY 18, The Tobacco Cotton & Peanuts ATAC committee proposed no resolution however put forth 2 recommendations and letters. For FY 2018, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton and Peanut issued no resolution.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Implementation does not necessarily apply to a number of the recommendations. The committee provides formal recommendations in the form of resolutions, but the committee provides numerous recommendations orally at meetings. The recommendations in all cases are fully considered by USTR and USDA negotiators in the course of pursuing free trade agreements and resolving trade disputes.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See above.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Through frequent conference calls jointly held with USTR, and during committee meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

N/A

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The advisors receive information via email notifications which direct them to go to a secured access website which is not available to the public and access is limited.